

Approved

February 12, 2014
The Compass School Council
Minutes
The Compass School
537 Old North Road
Kingston, RI

AGENDA

Call to order: Elizabeth Allen, Council President, calls the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Roll Call of Members Present: Elizabeth Allen (EA), Cyrus Beasley (CB), Heidi Vasquez (HV) Hilary Downes-Fortune (HD), Charlie Weygand (CW) Marisa Gallagher(MG) and

Dina Mandeville (DM) and Rick Rhodes (RR) enter at 6:10 pm.

Absent: Michelle Clifford (MC)

Also present: Michael Obel-Omia, Interim Director; Kaleena Harrington, Business Manager

Approval of minutes

Postpone the approval of the January 29, 2014 minutes and the January 29, 2014 executive session minutes to next month.

Committee Reports (Consent Agenda)

Development/Treasurers – No report submitted.

Site Maintenance

1. Site committee meeting proposed for Feb 25.
2. I would like to discuss allocating money from the cleaning crew to pay for a part time maintenance person.
3. Price out solid barrier for farmhouse driveway.

Learning- No report submitted

CW motions to approve committee reports.

CB seconds.

Requests from community for agenda items and comments

Chet Butler said he has been told by EA that he can expect a written response to his questions from the Jan 29th council meeting within a few days of tonight's meeting

Approved

Director's Report (MOO)

February 2014

In the short time since we have met, we have been intensely focused on improving instruction and providing the students with singular learning opportunities. The whole school is preparing for the Arts Night in March, which will be held at University of Rhode Island. In addition, classes continue to prepare for various Project Shares, with one occurring this Friday at the local Lutheran Church, The Church of the Good Shepherd. The Discoverers will present at the Church, as we have met the new pastor and have plans to work with her on a number of initiatives that connect to our mission and deepen our commitment to the local community.

This past Friday, the Faculty held a Professional Day, organized primarily by members of the Student Data Leadership Team: Michelle Clifford, Polly Cuddy, and Katey Reynolds. Cate Pileggi, a private contractor working with RIDE, met individually with each Faculty member, assisting each one with how best to use data to improve instruction. In addition, we all drew together at the close of the day to problem solve issues around data. During the rest of the Professional Day, the Faculty worked on their Professional Growth Plans, writing curriculum and documenting their projects. Last month, Compass School hosted a Student Data Leadership Team conference for all charter schools, and will, in all likelihood, host another one in March, as a part of our sharing our practices with our educational partners. The Salary and Benefits Committee held its initial meeting and will host another one soon. Its mission is to raise financial acuity and to determine how best to compensate faculty and staff. In another effort to improve instruction, Alyson Beatty, another independent contractor employed by RIDE, has planned to come to campus to shadow me and assist me in evaluating teachers. A snow day and a sick child have thwarted the first two attempts, but we expect her here on Thursday, this week. We have postponed School thrice because of snow (3 January, 22 January, 5 February), but our plan at present is to add those days at the end of the School year instead of taking days from next week's February Break.

Also, last month, in collaboration with Kingston Academy, we hosted an evening on Internet Safety with the State's foremost authority on the topic, Dr. Lawrence Filippelli. The 90 minute presentation, held at Kingston Academy, drew more than 20 families and educated parents on the challenges of keeping their children safe. We will be hosting another event on assisting children who have anxiety. Tomorrow, we shall be hosting our second Open House. The first one drew more than 60 families and was favorably received. We don't have numbers on how many applications yet, but will share that data in March.

NECAP Scores will be released officially later this week, and we have them for our School. They look good, and once that they are official, I shall share that information.

Finally, as we seek to raise children who are mentally strong, morally straight, and physically fit, we are offering Ski Club again on Wednesday afternoons. The students travel to Yawgoo Ski Area for lessons and skiing. Robert Rocchio, a senior at a local high school and the brother of students at Compass, will be organizing a running club for Investigators and Navigators beginning next month and culminating in a road race. As you can read, it has been a busy two weeks since the last Council Meeting. Most important, however, is that students are learning and growing and instruction is improving daily.

Sincerely,

Michael

Approved

Budget - First look at 2014-15 (Kaleena) – 25 minutes

Council reviewed the budget.

Kaleena will schedule another salary workshop and budget workshop.

Council Goals Roadmap – 20 minutes

Review progress, charge learning, site, development with any new specific responsibilities.

Council discussed their goals for the year.

Requests from community for agenda items and comments

Announcements

7:09 PM Adjourn